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Spot samples collected from HIL, FACT go missing

Mahir Haneef, TNN | Dec 17, 2011, 04.17AM IST

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KOCHI: Spot samples collected from two companies in the Eloor industrial area of the Periyar river, based on the Kerala High Court's directive and handed over to the Pollution Control Board (PCB) have gone missing.

Advocate P A Jacob was appointed by the high court for collecting samples from companies alleged to be polluting the Periyar in Eloor industrial area, based on a petition by Green Action Force.

According to the testing agency National Institute of Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (NIIST) in Thiruvananthapuram, [the samples](#) collected from Hindustan Insecticides Ltd, which manufactures endosulfan and dichlorodiphenyl trichloroethane ([DDT](#)), on November 21 and from Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd (FACT) on November 22 are missing.

The advocate commissioner had handed over the samples to the PCB, which was to forward them to the NIIST. The PCB submitted the samples to the NIIST based on which a receipt letter was issued

. However, on verification, the samples from Hindustan Insecticides and FACT were found missing. The NIIST has informed PCB about the [missing](#) of samples through a letter. When the petition alleging river pollution by companies in Eloor case came up before the court, advocate A X Varghese demanded a probe into the missing event. The division bench ruled that the issue would be dealt with at the time of case hearing after receiving the report from NIIST.

After advocate Varghese complained to the court that PCB was not providing the floating JCB required to unearth the drain pipe laid 20 feet below ground level by Cochin Minerals and Rutils Limited (CMRL), the court asked him to arrange for an inspection by hiring private contractors and reimburse the money later